

U.S. EPA Meeting with the American Academy of Pediatrics

June 28, 2016 – 1:00pm – 2:00pm Eastern Time

One Potomac Yard

2777 S. Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202

Room S-5100 (5th floor)

MEETING SUMMARY

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting is for EPA to share information relevant to the *Federal Research Action Plan on the Use of Recycled Tire Crumb on Playing Fields and Playgrounds* and to hear information from the American Academy of Pediatrics related to crumb rubber manufacturing, use, and installation on synthetic turf fields. For more information on the Action Plan see: www.epa.gov/tirecrumb

Attendees

Ami Gadhia, AAP Assistant Director of Department of Federal Affairs
Carla Campbell, Pediatrician*, AAP Council on Environmental Health
Jennifer Lowry, Pediatrician and Toxicologist*, AAP Chair, Council on Environmental Health
Jacqueline McQueen*, EPA Office of Research and Development
Monica Linnenbrink*, EPA Office of Research and Development
Charlotte Mooney, EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management
Nicole Villamizar, EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management
Ksenija Janjic, EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management
Chris Carusiello, EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management

* Denotes participation by telephone

Action Items

AAP to provide EPA (all items provided to EPA via email on August 29, 2016):

- An electronic copy of the comments on the Federal Research Action Plan;
- A point-of-contact from the American Public Health Association;
- Suggested contacts for additional organizations who are involved in this issue.

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Introductions

- This call will be recorded.
- Notes from this meeting may be subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.
- EPA is currently not in any formal rulemaking process on this issue; the purpose of our outreach efforts are to hear from stakeholders about the tire and tire crumb manufacturing processes, as well as the synthetic turf installation, use, and maintenance practices.

Overview of EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM)'s role in implementing the Federal Research Action Plan

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- OLEM's role in implementing the federal research action plan is to conduct outreach to better understand how tires are produced, how tire crumb is made, and how fields are constructed and maintained.
- The question of variability in the tire crumb product is very important to the study researchers.
- The Industrial Materials Reuse Branch is focusing on the responsible beneficial use of industrial nonhazardous secondary materials.
- Many states view tire crumb as a product, not as a waste.

Summary of Remarks Made by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

- The AAP's Council on Environmental Health encourages pediatricians to focus on environmental health.
 - There have been questions from pediatricians regarding crumb rubber.
 - Would like to see to children's exposures investigated.
 - Pediatricians are speaking with parents of children all the time—they can be a major conduit of information regarding crumb rubber safety (or lack thereof).
- AAP wants to ensure the science is accurate and robust.
- It is critical to look at the health impacts of the youngest children, not just older children and adolescents.
 - Very youngest children are most vulnerable.
 - Length of exposure should be considered due to hand-to-mouth activity.
- The Consumer Product Safety Commission's Human Factors' experts may be helpful in looking at the behaviors of younger children.
- Also look at the recommendations for the use of these products; are maintenance professionals really following the manufacturer's suggestions?
- Encourage the federal study to:
 - Investigate the degradation of the crumb rubber through play (running on it) and through ultraviolet light degradation over time.
 - Look at the maintenance and what is done with respect to chemicals.
 - Study crumb rubber playground surfaces, not just crumb rubber playing fields.
- National Center for Environmental Health can disseminate information and messages that should spread. EPA is engaged with their members.
- There are concerns about maintenance—how often are the fields maintained? How does weather impact the fields over time?
- Regarding the replacement of material, whose instructions are maintenance professionals following?
- From an injury perspective, the fields may be a net positive, but it is important to consider any additional adverse effects that can be brought up due to play.
- The AAP's Sports Medicine and Fitness council may look into this topic.

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- Communication channels to be aware of when disseminating the results of the study include the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit. Martha Berger in the EPA Office of Children's Health Protection would be happy to speak with the other staff at EPA.